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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
SAJ-01 MC-02 NSC-05 OMB-01 IGA-02 COME-00 EB-07 AID-05
/082 W
----------190259Z 081992 /70
R 181552Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3853
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
HQS AFSC, ANDREWS AFB, MARYLAND
F-16 SPO, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USMISSION NATO

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL NATO MASS MILI US DA
SUBJ: RADICALS CONDITION FUTURE DEFENSE AGREEMENT DISCUSSIONS ON F-16 OUTLOOK

REF: COPENHAGEN 0251 DTG 131700Z JAN 77

1. TODAY'S (JANUARY 18) POLITIKEN (INDEPENDENT-LEFT OF CENTER) QUOTES RADICAL PARTY DEFENSE SPOKESMAN JENS BILGRAV-NIELSEN AS SAYING THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE SUSPENDED UNTIL CLARIFICATION OF THE FINAL COST OF THE F-16 HAS BEEN OBTAINED. DANISH DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MOLLER, IN BRUSSELS FOR F-16 MEETING (REFTEL), REPORTEDLY STATED
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THAT HIS TALKS THERE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT.

2. COMMENT: GIVEN THE KNOWN RADICAL PARTY POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND THE CURRENT PUBLICITY SURROUNDING DANISH CONCERN OVER F-16 COST INCREASES, BILGRAV-NIELSEN MADE A SHREWD POLITICAL

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MOVE BY EXPLICITLY TIEING THESE TWO ELEMENTS TOGETHER. IF BILGRAVE-NIELSEN STICKS TO HIS GUNS, THIS COULD SUSPEND ANY FURTHER MOVEMENT ON THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, ONE ARGUMENT THAT SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING WIDE CURRENCY AMONG DANISH POLITICIANS IS THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN NOW HOPES TO REACH AGREEMENT ON EMPLOYMENT MEASURES, HOUSING POLICY AND AN ENERGY TAX WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK. HE THEN FEELS CONFIDENT THAT HE CAN PUT ENOUGH PRESSURE ON THE RADICALS FOR THEM TO ABANDON THEIR OBJECTION TO A NEW MULTI-YEAR DEFENSE AGREEMENT.

4. ACCORDING TO OUR UNDERSTANDING, THE RADICALS ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT TO NO-CUT, FOUR-YEAR AGREEMENT INDEXED AGAINST INFLATION. THEY CONTINUE, HOWEVER, TO INSIST UPON THE RIGHT OF FORCING A CUT IN THE NEW AGREEMENT IF DANISH ECONOMIC CONDITIONS DETERIORATE. THE FOUR CENTER-RIGHT PARTIES TO THE NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE RECOGNIZING THE PRIVILEGE OF ANY ONE PARTY TO INITIATE A REEXAMINATION OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT, INSIST THAT ANY OF THE PARTIES PARTICIPATTING IN THE AGREEMENT MUST HOLD THE RIGHT OF VETO OVER ANY PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE AGREEMENT. END COMMENT.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, AGREEMENTS, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, OFFSET PAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977COPENH00338
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770019-0228
Format: TEL
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770143/aaaablcl.tel
Line Count: 89
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fc8147d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 COPENHAGEN 251
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3575308
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RADICALS CONDITION FUTURE DEFENSE AGREEMENT DISCUSSIONS ON F-16 OUTLOOK
TAGS: MPOL, MASS, MILI, US, DA, NATO, (MOELLER, ORLA), (BILGRAV-NIELSEN, JENS),
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fc8147d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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22 May 2009
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